



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,523	11/10/2003	Martin Hans	10191/2479B	4852

26646 7590 03/24/2006

KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

LAM, DUNG LE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/705,523	HANS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dung Lam	2687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on 12/1/99 and 2/25/00. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 199 57 740.4 and 100 08 838.4 applications as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 11/10/2003 has been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449 form).

Drawings

The drawings 1-4 are objected to because all the labels are numerical which does not really illustrates or help the examiner understanding the invention. The examiner suggests revising the drawings to have the numerical as well as alphabetical labels. For example, from Figure 1, element "15" can be labeled as – User station 15--.

Furthermore, the bulk of invention revolves around claims 16 and 20 which describe a method of assigning a channel that has the least transmission power and dynamically changing to another better quality channel when the quality of the current connection falls below a threshold. However, none of the drawings 1-4 illustrates this concept. The examiner suggests revising the drawing to illustrate the claimed invention.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 17, 26, and 27 are objected to because of the following informalities:
4. Claim 1 reads,
" the method comprising (see Abstract): assigning at least one of the transmission channels for transmitting signals between one of the base stations and one of the mobile stations as a function of a channel measurement in an uncoordinated operation of the base stations; wherein a transmission power on all possible ones of the transmission channels is measured, if a previously measured transmission power on the at least one assigned transmission channel is minimal."

The phrase "uncoordinated operation of the base station" is hard to understand. The examiner suggests changing it to --in an ***uncoordinated*** operation among the base stations--. Furthermore, the underlined clause "wherein If" seems to be missing some steps and does not have any direct ties to the other portion of the claim. For examination, the examiner interprets the claim as follows and suggests the following language:

" ... the method comprising:

Measuring a transmission power on all available transmission channels;

Art Unit: 2617

Assigning at least one of the transmission channels for transmitting signals between one of the base units and one of the cordless handsets as a function of a channel measurement in an ***uncoordinated*** operation among the independent base units; wherein the assigned channel is selected from a channel which was measured to have a minimum transmission power."

5. Claim 17 cites "allowed ones of the codes". The examiner suggests changing it to -predefined codes--.

6. Similarly, claims 26 and 27 also cite the same "if" limitation seems to have no direct relation to other portions of the claims. Please make appropriate correction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims **16, 27 and 28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by ***Chuang et al*** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**).

9. Regarding **claim 16**, **Chuang** teaches a method of assigning transmission channels in a telecommunications network having a plurality of base stations (base units/ports 30, 40, 50, 60, Col. 10 ln 22-52) and a plurality of mobile stations (portables, 34, 36, 48, 72), the transmission channels being provided for transmitting signals between the plurality of base stations and the plurality of mobile stations, the method comprising (see Abstract): assigning at least one of the transmission channels for transmitting signals between one of the base stations and one of the mobile stations as a function of a

Art Unit: 2617

channel measurement in an uncoordinated operation of the base stations (this procedure is repeated by all the ports/base units either independently, Abstract); wherein a transmission power on all possible ones of the transmission channels is measured and assign a channel that has a previously measured transmission power on at the minimal level (frequency channel with the lowest received power is assigned, Abstract and Col. 11 In 66- col. 12 Ln 34).

10. Regarding **claim 27**, **Chuang** teaches a user station of a telecommunications network which has a plurality of base stations (base units/ports 30, 40, 50, 60, Col. 10 In 22-52) and a plurality of mobile stations (portables, 34, 36, 48, 72), transmission channels being provided for transmitting signals between the plurality of base stations and the plurality of mobile stations, comprising: a channel measurement arrangement for performing a channel measurement by measuring a transmission power of a signal received by the user station on all possible ones of the transmission channels in an uncoordinated operation of the base stations; and a channel assignment arrangement for assigning at least one of the transmission channels for transmitting signals between the user station and an additional user station as a function of the channel measurement, if a previously measured transmission power of the at least one assigned transmission channel is minimal (frequency channel with the lowest received power is assigned, Abstract and Col. 11 In 66- col. 12 Ln 34).

11. Regarding **claim 28**, **Chuang** teaches a user station according to claim 27, wherein the user station includes one of a base station (base units/ports 30) and a mobile station (portables, 34).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims **24 and 25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Chuang et al*** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**) in view of ***Toshiyuki et al.*** (US Patent No. **5,093,924**).

13. Regarding ***claim 24, Chuang*** teaches the method according to claim 16. However, Chuang does not teach that at least one of the base stations transmits specific information via a broadcast channel to all of the mobile stations within a reception range of the at least one of the base stations, and the broadcast channel is changed if an interference detected on the broadcast channel exceeds a pre-selected value. In an analogous art, ***Toshiyuki*** teaches the use of a broadcast channel for paging and sending control information purpose (col. 7 ln 12- col. 8 ln 36) and that the interference level of a channel does not satisfies a predetermined quality, a different channel is selected. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Chuang's teaching of channel assignment and Toshiyuki's well known concept of using broadcast channel to send control information and selecting a channel that yields the satisfactory interference value to ensure that the system's Qos is at its maximum level.

Art Unit: 2617

14. With further regard to **claim 25**, **Chuang** teaches a method according to claim 24, wherein Toshiyuki teaches at least one of the transmission channels is reserved for use as the broadcast channel (col. 7 ln 12- col. 8 ln 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Chuang's teaching of channel assignment and Toshiyuki's known in art concept of using broadcast channel to send control information to facilitate the communications between the mobiles and the network.

15. Claims **17-19, 26, 29 and 30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chuang et al** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**) in view of **Chuang2000** (US Patent No. **6,052,594**).

16. Regarding **claim 17**, **Chuang** teaches a method according to claim 16 except the use of codes to spread and despread when performing channel measurement. In an analogous art, **Chuang2000** teaches the use of codes to spread at least one transmission resource into a plurality of the transmission channels, wherein the channel measurement includes a code measurement, in which a received signal for each transmission resource is despread using predefined ones of the codes to measure the transmission power in each of the transmission channels (col. 5 ln 28-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Chuang's teaching of channel assignment with Chuang2000's teaching of code spreading to increase the system's capacity and reduce interference and eavesdropping (suggested by Chuang2000, col.2 ln 25-40).

17. With further regard to **claim 18**, Chuang in view of Chuang2000 teaches that the codes are provided for spreading at least one of a time slot and a frequency band (col. 5 In 28-44).

18. With further regard to **claim 19 and 30**, Chuang in view of Chuang2000 teaches a method according to claim 16 and 27 respectively, wherein the channel measurement is performed while a connection is being established (receive signal and simultaneously measure, col. 5 In 28-44).

19. Regarding **claim 26 and 29**, Chuang teaches a method according to claims 16 and 27 except the following steps of scrambling a new code with a transmission channel if a transmission capacity of the transmission channels established for assignment is not sufficient and assigned a new scrambled channel with the least transmission power. In an analogous art, **Chuang2000** teaches the concept of using CDMA technology of scrambling channels with codes to increase capacity (col.2 In 25-40), and the steps of (A) scrambling at least one of the transmission channels with a new scrambling code (Col. 6 In. 2-12, Col. 5 In. 28-44). Furthermore, **Chuang** teaches the step of (B) assigning the at least one transmission channel for transmitting signals between one of the base stations and one of the mobile stations as a function of a channel measurement, wherein transmission power of all channels are measured and the one with the minimum power is assigned (**Chuang** Col. 5 In. 28-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Chuang2000's teaching of code scrambling to Chuang's teaching of channel

Art Unit: 2617

measurement and assignment to increase the system's capacity and decrease the interference level.

20. Claim **20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Chuang et al*** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**) in view of ***H'mimy*** (US Patent No. **6,442,152**).

21. Regarding **claim 20**, **Chuang** teaches the method according to claim 16. However, Chuang does not teach that a new channel is selected if the connection quality falls below a level. In an analogous art, ***H'mimy*** teaches that the channel measurement is performed during an existing connection between one of the base stations and one of the mobile stations, and wherein a connection quality of the existing connection is measured in parallel, and, if the connection quality falls below a preselected value, a channel change is performed and at least one new transmission channel is assigned as a function of a channel measurement of the existing connection (Col. 3, ln 23-34, col. 6 ln 6-10. Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Chuang's teaching of channel assignment and H'mimmy's teaching of reassigning a channel when the quality falls below a pre-selected value because this channel reassignment would prevent the system's quality of service from degrading to an unacceptable level.

22. Claim **21** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Chuang et al*** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**) in view of ***Wejke et al.*** (US Patent No. **5,175,867**).

Art Unit: 2617

23. Regarding **claim 21**, **Chuang** teaches the method according to claim 16.

However, Chuang does not teach that a channel measurement for an assignment of at least one transmission channel in an uplink transmission direction from one of the mobile stations to one of the base stations is performed by a corresponding one of the base stations, and a channel measurement for an assignment of at least one transmission channel in a downlink transmission direction from one of the base stations to one of the mobile stations is performed by a corresponding one of the mobile stations. In an analogous art, **Wejke** teaches a base station measuring a signal strength of the uplink time slot assigned to that mobile station. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Chuang's teaching of channel assignment and Wejke's teaching of measuring the uplink by the base station before assigning the channel to maximize the system's quality of service.

24. Claim **22** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chuang et. al** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**) in view of **Mizoguchi** (US Pub No. **2001/004687**).

25. Regarding **claim 22**, **Chuang** teaches the method according to claim 16.

However, Chuang does not explicitly teach that the step of assigning at least one of the transmission channels includes assigning at least one of the transmission channels in at least an uplink transmission direction from one of the mobile stations to one of the base stations, the assigning being performed by a corresponding one of the base stations. In an analogous art, **Mizoguchi** teaches a base station assigning an uplink channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Chuang's teaching of channel assignment and Mizoguchi's teaching of assigning an uplink because the base station knows its current resource status for uplink transmission and thus allows a more suitable uplink channel allocation.

26. Claims **23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Chuang et al*** (US Patent Number **5,212,831**) in view of ***Lan*** (US Publication No. **2004/0214582**).

27. Regarding ***claim 23***, ***Chuang*** teaches the method according to claim 16. However, Chuang does not teach that the step of assigning at least one of the transmission channels includes assigning at least one of the transmission channels in at least a downlink transmission direction from one of the base stations to one of the mobile stations, the assigning being performed by a corresponding one of the mobile stations. In an analogous art, ***Lan*** teaches a mobile station selecting a downlink timeslot (para. 202). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine. Chuang's teaching of channel assignment and Lan's teaching of a mobile station to select the downlink channel because the mobile station knows its current resource status for downlink transmission and thus allows a more suitable downlink channel allocation.

Art Unit: 2617

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-6497. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 9 - 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DL


LESTER G. KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER